

Further Notes on *Oecetis notata* (Rambur)
(Trichoptera: Leptoceridae) in South-west Wales

By R. A. JENKINS and S. COOKE*

The following observations, based on collections made in 1977, supplement the earlier record of *Oecetis notata* (Ramb.) from the River Teifi, reported by Jenkins (1977, *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, **89**: 52-53). This very restricted species has now been recorded from four additional localities on the River Teifi, and one on the River Towy. At each site, pupae and final instar larvae were found in two distinctly different microhabitats; at the bases of moss growths on large stones in mid-river, and on submerged marginal tree roots in slowly flowing water.

Pupae and final instar larvae of *O. notata* were collected on the 27th May, 1977, from the River Teifi below Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire (N.G.R. SN (22) 297 416), where they were common on submerged tree roots. On the 1st June, 1977, larvae and pupae were also found in the River Towy above Carmarthen (N.G.R. SN (22) 447 204) and on the same date, one final instar larva was collected from the River Teifi at Llechryd, Cardiganshire (N.G.R. SN (22) 217 436). The identity of this latter specimen was kindly confirmed by Dr. I. D. Wallace.

On the 9th June, 1977, *O. notata* was found at two localities on the River Teifi, near Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Carmarthenshire. Above Pont Llanfihangel (N.G.R. SN (22) 458 403), pupae and final instar larvae were abundant in both microhabitat types, while 1.2 km. downstream at Dolwallter Farm (N.G.R. SN (22) 447 402), they were most abundant on submerged tree roots.

With the exception of the Llechryd record, material from each locality was reared to the adult stage. Males were identified using Macan (1973, *Scient. Publ. Freshwat. biol. Ass.*, **28**), and the identification of both males and females was confirmed by Dr. P. C. Barnard of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

Dr. I. D. Wallace (*in litt.*) has noted that the larvae of many leptocerid species are found amongst submerged tree roots in canals and slowly flowing rivers such as the Thames. This observation is also true for the faster flowing Teifi and Towy rivers. The following leptocerid species were commonly found on tree roots at all the above localities: *Oecetis notata* (Ramb.), *Oecetis testacea* (Curt.), *Athripsodes cinereus* (Curt.) and *Ceraclea dissimilis* (Steph.). Both *Adicella reducta* (McLach.) and *Athripsodes albifrons* (L.) were also present at some localities. Neither of the *Oecetis* species has previously been reported from submerged tree roots, and only *O. notata* was collected from moderately flowing mid-river situations. Pupae and final instar larvae of *O. testacea* were restricted to the silty marginal regions.

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Although adults of *O. notata* were not taken in the field, published records indicate that the flight period is from June to August. The distribution records also show that, with the exception of an isolated Yorkshire locality, *O. notata* is confined to the south, and there are three records from southern Ireland (Jenkins, 1977).

It appears that *O. notata* is locally abundant in south-west Wales, and the distribution of this species extends over a 32 km. length of the River Teifi, together with one locality in the lower reaches of the River Towy.

The River Teifi formed the old county boundary between Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire at three localities, and between Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire at Llechryd, and the *O. notata* records could apply equally to each county. Although these counties were amalgamated in April 1974 to constitute the new county of Dyfed, the original county names have been retained here for ease of geographical reference.

The nomenclature and classification used for the Leptoceridae follows that of Kimmins (1966, *Entomologist's Gaz.*, 17: 111-120), with the alterations proposed for the *Athripsodes* genus by Morse and Wallace (1974, *Proc. 1st int. Symp. Trich.*, 33-40).

THE HORNET (*VESPA CRABRO* L.) IN SHROPSHIRE. — A friend, Mr. David Perrett, of "Silverton", Pontesbury, captured a hornet which entered a porch here about 15th September, 1977. It was brought to me alive, and I again examined it later when dead. It is a very large specimen (a queen hornet perhaps?) and is at present in the possession of the captor. There is no doubt about the identification, because I am quite familiar with the species on the continent. — DAVID J. SMITH, "Curlews", Rosemary Way, Pontesbury, Salop, SY5 0RW. [The hornet is rarely reported from so far north, and it would be interesting to hear if it is seen there again in 1978. — Editor.]

OCTOBER IN SCILLY. — I made my annual visit to the Isles of Scilly from 5th to 19th October, 1977. The weather was mixed but several days were sunny enough to tempt butterflies on the wing and I recorded the following species: *Vanessa atalanta* L., *Pieris brassicae* L., *P. rapae* L., *Aglais urticae* L., *Inachis io* L. and *Celastrina argiolus* L. Only the first two were present in reasonable numbers and I managed only one sighting of each of the last three.

The holly blue (*C. argiolus*) was attracted to an escallonia hedge on St. Mary's, and was my first record of this species in Scilly. It is, however, represented in the local museum.

I made some enquiries with observers who visited the islands in late September and, as expected, *Pararge aegeria* L. and *V. atalanta* were well in evidence. A few *A. urticae* and odd *Cynthia cardui* L. were seen, but only one *Colias croceus* Geoffroy was reported. — G. SUMMERS, 23 West Close, Stafford, Staffs. ST16 3TG.